

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 29, and 39-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 30-35 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and independent claims 1, 5, and 17 and dependent claims 16, 18, 19, and 39-41 have been amended. Support for the amendments are found in the specification at least in Example 1 on pages 13-15. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Examiner Interview conducted on August 21, 2003, in which the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments to claims 1, 5, and 17 and the cancellation of the claims directed to the thin layer chromatography species "would make the case free of the prior art of record". The amendments made to claims 1, 5, and 17 are identical to the amendments discussed with the Examiner during the interview of August 21, 2003, and attached to the Interview Summary form from such interview. Claims 30-38 including subject matter directed to the thin layer chromatography species have all been cancelled.

Reexamination of the application and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, which follow the order set forth in the Office Action.

A. Claim rejections--35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-19, and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention due to the use of the phrase "predicting a retention time of the compound of interest from a preparative scale HPLC column." This phrase has been amended in claims 1 and 5 to read "predicting a retention time of the compound of interest on the preparative scale HPLC column" and a similar phrase in claim 17 has been amended to read "predicting a retention time of each compound with an expected mass on the preparative scale HPLC column." Applicants assert that amended independent claims 1, 5, and 17 are definite and respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections be withdrawn.

B. Claim rejections--35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 29, and 35-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and/or 103 as anticipated and/or obvious based on the references listed in

the Office Action. The rejections of cancelled claims 35-38 are moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 29, and 39-41 for the reasons stated below.

As discussed above, claims 1, 5, and 17 have been amended in conformance with the amendments discussed with the Examiner during the interview of August 21, 2003. The Interview Summary form states that the Examiner "Agreed that the attached proposed claim 1 and similar changes to claims 5 and 17 and cancellation of the thin layer species of claims 30-38 would make the case free of the prior art of record." The amendments made to claims 1, 5, and 17 are identical to the amendments discussed with the Examiner.

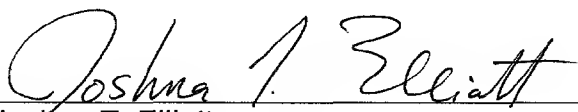
Because none of the references of record teach or suggest the methods recited in amended claims 1, 5, and 17, these claims and the claims ultimately depending therefrom (i.e., claims 2-4, 9-12, 14-16, 18-19, 22-25, 29, and 39-41) are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, pending claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 29, and 39-41 are considered allowable. A Notice to this effect is respectfully solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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